

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NSCE-00 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

IO-14 EUR-25 /134 W

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R 110322Z SEP 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2375

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1560

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SHANTUNG PROVINCE

1. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN MILATT STRUTHERS WHO JUST RETURNED FROM SEVERAL DAYS VISIT TO SHANTUNG CITIES OF TSINAN AND TSINGTAO, THERE WERE VERY FEW BIG CHARACTER POSTERS TO BE SEEN ON THE MAIN STREETS OF EITHER CITY. IN TSINAN, THERE WERE MANY REMNANTS OF POSTERS WHICH SUGGESTED A VERY ACTIVE POLITICAL SCENE SOME TIME AGO, BUT THESE HAD BEEN TORN DOWN OR WORN BY THE WEATHER AND WALL SLOGANS HAD BEEN PAINTED OVER.

2. STRUTHERS DESCRIBED TSINAN AS "SCRUFFY", POORER THAN MANY OTHER MAJOR PRC CITIES HE HAS VISITED (HE LIVED THERE AS A BOY), WHILE TSINGTAO LOOKS VERY EUROPEAN AND OBVIOUSLY

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IS THRIVING AS A MAJOR PORT, MILITARY TOWN, AND CHINESE

RESORT AREA. THE FACTORIES HE VISITED SEEMED FAIRLY UNIMPRESSIVE AND THE FAMOUS TSINGTAO BREWERY LOOKED AS IF IT WERE USING VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED BY THE GERMANS IN THE EARLY 1900'S.

COMMENT: NO PEKING-BASED DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT SHANTUNG FOR OVER A YEAR. THE CHINESE HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW STRUTHERS AND HIS FATHER (WHO HAD TAUGHT IN TSINAN MANY YEARS) TO GO THERE LAST OCTOBER AND THE CURRENT TRIP WAS APPARENTLY INTENDED AS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO MAKE UP FOR THE EARLIER REFUSAL. NEVERTHELESS, HAVING BROKEN THE ICE, THE CHINESE MAY NOW PLAN TO OPEN UP SHANTUNG TO OTHER OUTSIDE VISITORS.
BRUCE

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